

AC 4648
THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY
OF THE COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

OF

SCHOOL CHILDREN.

FOR THE

Year ending 31st July, 1929.

THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY
OF THE COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE


MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

OF

SCHOOL CHILDREN.

FOR THE

Year ending 31st July, 1929.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28657913>

THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children for the year ending 31st July, 1929.

1.—LIST OF STAFF.

(a) WHOLE-TIME.

MEDICAL OFFICER—John Hunter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DENTAL OFFICER—Jean T. Smith, L.D.S., R.F.P.S., (Glas.)

SCHOOL NURSES—Catherine F. Leekie (resigned 31/5/29).

Isabella Lumsden (resigned 31/8/28).

Jean Reekie

Jean MacKinnon

Christina M. Russell (appointed 1/9/28).

CLERK—Grace L. Fisher.

CHANGE OF STAFF.—There have been two changes in the whole-time staff during the year. Nurse Leekie resigned her appointment after having been with the Authority since shortly after its coming into office. She will be succeeded by Nurse Jean MacDonald who will take up duty on 1st September next. Nurse Lumsden also resigned during the year. She was succeeded by Nurse C. M. Russell. There have been no other changes.

(b) PART-TIME.

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF SCHOOL CLINICS.

The list of part-time medical officers in charge of school clinics remains the same as detailed in the Annual Report for the year ending 31st July, 1926, except for the following changes :—

Armadale P.S. —C. Fletcher, M.B., Ch.B. (resigned 31/12/28).

H. Somerville, M.B., Ch.B. (appointed 1/1/29).

Bathgate P.S. —A. C. McKay, L.R.C.P. & S.E. (resigned 30/9/28).

W. M. B. Rossie, L.R.C.P. & S.E. (appointed 1/10/28).

Linlithgow P.S.—James Hunter, M.D. (Hons.) (resigned 31/7/28).

E. E. Candlish, M.B., Ch.B. (appointed 1/9/28).

CLINIC NURSES :—

Part-Time :—

Armada Clinic ...	...	M. C. Stevenson.
Bathgate Clinic ...	...	Jeanie P. Pollock.
Blackburn Clinic	...	Margaret Ellis.
Blackridge Clinic	...	Sarah A. McAlpine.
Bridgend Clinic ...	...	Susan F. Campbell.
Carriden Clinic ...	...	J. Macalister.
Fauldhouse Clinic	...	Mary Christie.
Linlithgow Clinic	...	Catherine McLean
Livingston Station Clinic		Helen R. Watt (resigned 12/7/28). Margt. Wilson (appointed 1/9/28).
South Queensferry Clinic		Mary W. McCulloch.
Stoneyburn Clinic	...	M. B. Connachie (resigned 31/10/28). W. A. P. Taylor (appointed 3 11/28).
Uphall Clinic ...	...	A. K. Scott.
Winchburgh Clinic	...	L. Bennett.

The following three clinics are attended to by the whole-time Nurses employed by the Authority :—

Bo'ness Clinic ...	...	C. M. Russell.
Broxburn Clinic...	...	Jean MacKinnon.
Whitburn Clinic	...	Jean Reekie.

2.—SCHOOLS.

(a) The number of schools in the County is 48, of which 7 are Roman Catholic. There is no change from the corresponding figures in the preceding report.

(b) The average number of children on the register for the year is 16,570, and the number in average daily attendance is 15,048 (90·9 per cent.). There is a diminution of the school population of 196 as compared with the preceding year, and the percentage attendance is lower by 0·2 per cent.—a very small reduction when viewed in the light of the outbreak of Influenza in the early months of 1929.

3 and 4.—VISITS AND SPECIAL VISITS.

The number of visits to schools reached a total of 419. Routine visits numbered 285, and special visits 134. In addition 221 visits of varying length of time were made to the offices for administrative duties.

5.—SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

(INCLUDING CONSTRUCTIONAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.)

Full reports continue to be made at regular intervals during the year to the Authority regarding the above by the Superintendent of Works, and therefore it appears to be unnecessary to include them here in detail.

6.—ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) SYSTEM OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.—The system detailed on page 6 of the Report for the year ending 31st July, 1922, has been continued during the year, and the following groups of children underwent a systematic medical examination :—

- (1) Entrants, *i.e.*, Children entering upon school life for the first time since the previous corresponding visit of the Medical Officer.
- (2) Leavers, *i.e.*, Children born between 1/8, 15 and 31/7/16; in other words, those who will become 13 years of age in the year ending 31/7/29.
- (3) Secondary Pupils, *i.e.*, Children born between 1/8/12 and 31/7/13 ; in other words, those who will become 16 years of age in the year ending 31/7/29.
- (4) Students in their 4th, 5th and 6th year of study. This group was added by the Authority as a result of the receipt of Circular Letter No. 74 from the Department, and the pupils in the group are examined twice a year.

The above work, along with duties arising immediately therefrom, constitutes the main part of the activities in the medical department. The visitation of the schools was carried out on the same lines as were indicated in the Report for the year ending 31/7/24, page 8.

(b) SCHOOL NURSES.—(1) Four whole-time nurses are employed by the Authority in duties connected with medical inspection and treatment and dental treatment. (2) The duties of the nurses remain as outlined in previous reports. Work in connection with applications for relief was fairly considerable in amount and interfered to some extent with the regular work. Reports have already been furnished to the Authority by the Executive Officer regarding nature and amount of relief granted, and therefore no further reference is here required.

(c) ARRANGEMENTS FOR "FOLLOWING UP."—See Report for year ending 31/7/20, page 6.

(d) SUPERVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—See Reports for years ending 31/7/20, page 6, and 31/7/23, page 8.

(e) CO-ORDINATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.—See Report for year ending 31/7/24, pages 8 and 9. The Town Council of the Burgh of Whitburn appointed the Authority's Medical Officer as M.O.H. of that Burgh in October 1928.

(f) PRESENCE OF PARENTS AT INSPECTION.—The proportion of parents present at the examination was no larger than in previous

years, and those who do attend are very largely those in charge of entrants. It is seldom that the parents of leaving or secondary pupils are present. The custom of sending for parents, in certain cases, has been continued, with satisfactory results.

7.—THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

(a) Total number of children examined :—

(i) Systematic or Routine Examinations :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Entrants	891	837	1728
Leavers	733	692	1425
Secondary Pupils	52	46	98
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	1676	1575	3251

(ii) Special Examinations :—

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
300	397	697

(iii) Re-Examinations :—

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1153	953	2106

In addition to the above work, the Secondary Pupils in their 4th, 5th and 6th years were examined twice during the year. The number of such examinations amounted to 300. Most of these pupils were in very good condition and of excellent physique. Dental treatment was required in a few cases, more sleep was required in others, and in one case chest and lungs are being kept under observation. One case was found to have defective vision.

(b) Number of children notified to parents as suffering from defects :—

Routines.				
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Entrants	197	192	389	
Leavers	83	103	186	
Secondary Pupils ...	9	5	14	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals ...	289	300	589	

Specials.

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
142	158	300

(Exclusive of Mentally Defective Children.)

The foregoing figures refer solely to work carried out by the Medical Officer personally. The following details refer to work carried out by the Nurses during the course of their duties in following up cases found to be defective. The total number of examinations and re-examinations made by them in schools amounted to 4635. In addition, they made 674 home visits in cases where these were found to be necessary or desirable, and 16 visits to the Authority's Oculist in Edinburgh with 144 children who required treatment and advice for visual and ocular defects.

(c) Number of children receiving attention (excluding cases of defective teeth).—Approximately 81 per cent of the children notified to their parents as requiring medical or parental attention were found to have received attention. A note of the operations which have been performed as the result of notices sent from this office is included in this report on page 31.

(d) CLOTHING.

SYSTEMATIC CASES.								SPECIAL CASES.		
	No. Exam- ined.	Insufficient		In need of Repair.		Dirty.		In- suffi- cient.	In need of Re- pair.	Dirty.
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Boys	1676	1	...	4	...	7	...	...	3	7
Girls	1575	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3251	1	0·03	4	0·12	11	0·33	...	3	7

Conditions regarding clothing were much the same as in the preceding year, as the above figures show. Insufficiency of clothing is rarely met with and the position with regard to excess of clothing would appear to be improving.

(e) FOOTGEAR.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.			SPECIAL CASES.
	No. Exam- ined.	Number Unsatisfactory.	%	Number Unsatisfactory.
Boys	1676	22	...	8
Girls	1575	8	...	2
Totals	3251	30	0·92	10

On the whole, much improvement is necessary in the matter of footgear amongst girls. Too often does one see high heels, thin soles and pointed toes. The results are seen in adult life—sore, tired feet, hammer toes, corns, bunions, and so on. All these are entirely preventable if only suitable footgear were worn when the feet are growing.

(f) AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

	Number Measured.	Average Age.		Average Height (inches).	Average Weight (pounds).
		Years.	Months.		
Boys ...	51	4	9 (9)	41·41 -	40·24 +
	731	5	5 (5)	42·55 -	41·94 +
	107	6	3 (2)	44·30 +	44·01 +
	286	12	9 (9)	57·01 -	82·11 +
	447	13	3 (3)	57·79 -	84·74 +
	42	15	5 (7)	64·76 -	112·97 +
	10	16	1 (0)	64·70 -	120·80 -
Girls ...	60	4	9 (9)	40·81 -	38·06 -
	678	5	5 (5)	41·86 -	39·74 -
	99	6	3 (3)	43·63 +	42·73 +
	273	12	9 (8)	57·71 +	82·61 +
	415	13	3 (3)	58·70 -	85·78 -
	43	15	6 (6)	62·74 -	108·34 -
	3	16	0	62·66	105·33

NOTES :—(1) + Signifies an increase as compared with last year's figures.

(2) - Signifies a decrease do. do. do.

(3) Under the months section of the "average age" column the figures in brackets represent last year's average ages.

(g) CLEANLINESS OF HEAD AND BODY.

SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.			
No. Exam- ined.	Head.				Body.				Head.		Body.		
	Vermineous		Nits.		Dirty.		Vermineous		No. Verm- ineous.	No. with Nits.	No. Dirty.	No. Verm- ineous.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
Boys ...	1676	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	2	3	1
Girls ...	1575	3	...	7	...	1	...	1	2	19	2	1	
Totals	3251	3	0·09	7	0·21	5	0·15	1	4	21	5	2	

(h) CONDITION OF SKIN.

		SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.					
		Head.					Body.					Head.			Body.		
No. Exam- ined.		R.		I.		F.		O.D.		R.	I.	No.	%	R.	No.	%	O.D.
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%								
Boys ...	1676	...	...	8	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Girls ...	1575	...	...	13	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3251	...	...	21	0·64	1	0·03	5	0·15	...	1	0·03	2	0·06	...	...	...

Note.—R = Ringworm. I = Impetigo Contagiosa. F = Favus. S = Scabies. O. D. = Other Skin Diseases.

(i) NUTRITION.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.
	No. Exam- ined.	Above Average.		Average.		Below Average.		Mal- nutrition.		Malnu- trition.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Boys	1676	317	...	1203	...	126	...	30	...	3	
Girls	1575	242	..	1143	...	167	...	23	...	6	
Totals	3251	559	17·19	2346	72·16	293	9·01	53	1·63	9	

The condition of the children as expressed in the above table may be stated as showing considerable improvement over the preceding year. There is an appreciable increase in the number of children who are classed as "above the average" and a diminution in the numbers in the other three groups.

(j) TEETH.

		SYSTEMATIC CASES.									SPECIAL CASES.
		No. Exam- ined.	Teeth Sound.		1 to 4 Decayed.		5 and more Decayed.		Oral Sepsis.		Oral Sepsis.
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Boys	...	1676	513	...	886	...	277	...	34	...	3
Girls	...	1575	480	...	834	...	261	...	44	...	2
Totals		3251	993	30·54	1720	52·90	538	16·54	78	2·39	5

(ka) NOSE.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.							SPECIAL CASES.		
	No. Exam- ined.	Catarrh.		Obstruc- tion.		Other Diseases.		Ca- tarrh.	Ob- struc- tion.	Other Dis- eases.
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Boys	1676	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...
Girls	1575	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	...
Totals.	3251	5	0·15	7	0·21	...	...	...	4	...

(kb) THROAT.

SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.						
No. Exam- ined.	Tonsils.			Adenoids.			Other Diseases.	Tonsils.		Adenoids.		Other Diseases.				
	S.E.	M.E.		P.P.	P.	S.E.		M.E.	P.P.	P.						
		No.	%								No.		%	No.	%	
Boys ...	1676	39	...	94	...	20	...	...	1	...	...	13	2	...	...
Girls ...	1575	31	...	121	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	1	18	6	...	...
Totals	3251	70	2·15	215	6·61	37	1·13	...	1	0·03	1	31	8	...	...	...

Note.—S. E. = Slight Enlargement. M. E. = Marked Enlargement. P. P. = Probably Present. P. = Present.

(kc) LYMPHATIC GLANDS.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.			
	No. Exam- ined.	P.E.		M.E.		S.		C.			P.E.	M.E.	S.	C.
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.				
<i>Submaxillary Glands.</i>														
Boys	1676	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Girls	1575	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	3251	3	0.09	...	..	1	0.03	1	0.03	...	1	...	...	...
<i>Cervical Glands.</i>														
Boys	1676	115	...	4	...	1	...	13	...	...	...	1	...	...
Girls	1575	101	...	2	...	...	...	10	...	...	1	1	...	1
Totals	3251	216	6.64	6	0.18	1	0.03	23	0.70	1	2	...	...	1

Note.—P.E. = Palpable Enlargement. M.E. = Marked Enlargement. S. = Suppurating.
C. = Cicatrices (Scars of old-standing disease or operations).

(d) EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

		SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.					
	No. Exam- ined.	Blepharitis		Conjunctivitis.		Corneal Opacities.		Squint.		Other Diseases.		Blepharitis.	Conjunctivitis.	Corneal Opac.	Squint.	O. D.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%						No.
Boys	...	1676	10	...	2	...	...	...	20	...	1	..	3	...	...	9	4
Girls	...	1575	11	...	...	...	...	...	27	..	1	...	5	...	...	13	2
Totals		3251	21	0·64	2	0·06	...	..	47	1·44	2	0·06	8	...	...	22	6

(m) VISUAL ACUITY.

		SYSTEMATIC CASES.							SPECIAL CASES.	
		No. Exam- ined.	Good Vision 6/6		Fair Vision 6/9 & 6/12		Bad Vision 6/18 & worse		6/9 & 6/12	6/18 & worse
			No	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
Boys	...	785	703	...	43	...	39	...	1	38
Girls	...	738	635	...	73	...	30	...	3	46
Totals ...		1523	1338	87.78	116	7.61	69	4.53	4	84

Full details of the cases which were sent for advice and treatment to the Authority's Oculist in Edinburgh are given on pages 30 and 31 of this report.

During the year, six adult males were admitted to and one adult male was discharged from the Technical Training Department of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh. At the end of the year, therefore, there were in this Institution 13 cases (12 men and 1 woman), receiving technical training and maintenance at the charge of the Education Authority and the County Council respectively.

(n) EARS.

		SYSTEMATIC CASES.						SPECIAL CASES.			
		No. Exam- ined.	Otorrhœa.		Wax.		Other Diseases.		Otorr- hœa.	Wax.	O.D.
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	No.
Boys	...	1676	6	...	4	...	...	...	9	6	...
Girls	...	1575	5	...	2	...	1	...	6	3	1
Totals ...		3251	11	0.33	6	0.18	1	0.03	15	9	1

(o) HEARING.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.						SPECIAL CASES.	
	No. Exam- ined.	Slight Deafness.		Marked Deafness.			Slight Deafness.	Marked Deafness.
		No.	%	No.	%		No.	No.
Boys ...	1676	1	...	...	...		3	3
Girls ...	1575	1	...	3	...		1	2
Totals...	3251	2	0·06	3	0·09		4	5

(p) SPEECH.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.						SPECIAL CASES.	
	No. Exam- ined.	Defective Articulation.		Stammering.			Defective Articulation.	Stammer- ing.
		No.	%	No.	%		No.	No.
Boys ..	1676	1	...	...	...		...	...
Girls ...	1575	4	...	4	...		...	...
Totals...	3251	5	0·15	4	0·12		...	...

(q) MENTAL CONDITION.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.						SPECIAL CASES.	
	No. Exam- ined.	Dull.		Mentally Defective (all grades).		Dull.	Mentally Defective (all grades)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	
Boys 	1676	2	...	...	...	28	17
Girls 	1575	3	...	4	...	20	14	
Totals... ...	3251	5	0.15	4	0.12	48	31	

The total number of children examined during the year from the mental point of view was 116. Of this number, 35 (17 boys and 18 girls) were certified as being, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, mentally defective. Of these, 34 (17 boys and 17 girls) were classified as "educable in a Special Class or School," and consequently they were retained under the jurisdiction of the Authority. The remaining girl was certified as "ineducable in a Special Class or School" and transferred, along with one boy who was provisionally certified as an educable mental defective in a previous year and placed in one of the special classes for observation and now certified this year as ineducable, to the care of the appropriate Parish Council. Of the remaining 28 children who are not included in the above table as dull, 22 (14 boys and 8 girls) were found to be of average mental capacity and 3 (1 boy and 2 girls) were continued for further observation. The remaining 3 (1 boy and 2 girls) were examined with a view to assessing what degree of superior intelligence existed.

During the year one mentally defective boy was admitted to Larbert Institution and two were admitted to Baldovan Institution. One boy was discharged from Larbert to the care of his guardians at their request and two boys, on the attainment of 16 years of age, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Parish Councils concerned. These bodies assumed responsibility for the payment of maintenance charges as the children were retained in the institutions. At the end of the year, therefore, 9 cases (5 boys and 4 girls) were being maintained and educated in residential institutions for the mentally defective by the Authority, aided in several cases by periodical contributions of varying amounts from parents or guardians.

(r) HEART AND CIRCULATION.

SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.			
No. Exam- ined.	Organic Disease.				Functional Disease.		Anæmia.		Organic Disease.		Func- tional Disease.	Anæmia.	
	Congenital.		Acquired.		No.	%	No.	%	No.	Acquired.			
	No.	%	No.	%							No.	%	No.
	Boys ...	1676	2	...	5	...	18	1	6
Girls ...	1575	...	...	1	...	2	...	25	...	...	1	...	11
Totals...	3251	...	...	3	0·09	7	0·21	43	1·32	...	1	1	17

(s) LUNGS.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.						SPECIAL CASES.						
	No. Exam- ined.	Chronic Bronchitis.		Tuber- culosis.		Suspected Tuberculosis.		Other Diseases.		Chronic Bron- chitis.	Tuber- culosis.	Sus- pected Tuber- culosis.	Other Dis- eases.
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
Boys ...	1676	14	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Girls ...	1575	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Totals	3251	27	0·83	1	0·03	...	...	1	0·03	1	1	2	2

For cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis treated at East Fortune Sanatorium, see remarks under table (u) on page 22.

(c) NERVOUS SYSTEM.

SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.			
No. Exam- ined.	Epilepsy		Chorea.		Infantile Paralysis.		Other Diseases.		Epi- lepsy.	Chorea.	Infan- tile Para- lysis.	Other Dis- eases.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
Boys ...	1676	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	..	...	...	...
Girls ...	1575	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	3251	...	...	...	5	0·15	1	0·03	...	1	...	...

(u) TUBERCULOSIS (NON-PULMONARY).

SYSTEMATIC CASES.										SPECIAL CASES.					
No. Exam- ined.	Glands.		Bones and Joints.		Abdomen.		Skin.		Other Forms.		G.	B. & J.	A.	S.	O.F.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
Boys ...	1676	8	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...
Girls ...	1575	4	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Total	3251	12	0·36	1	0·03	4	0·12	...	...	...	2	...	4	...	...

During the year sixteen cases of Tuberculosis—actual or suspected—were admitted to East Fortnne Sanatorium. Of these, one was pulmonary, fourteen were non-pulmonary, and one was found to be non-tuberculous after observation. Of the fourteen non-pulmonary cases, three were osseous, four were abdominal, five were glandular, and two were general. At the end of the year, ten cases from West Lothian were still resident in the Sanatorium.

(v) RICKETS.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.					SPECIAL CASES.	
	No. Exam- ined.	Slight Cases.		Severe Cases.		Slight Cases.	Severe Cases.
		No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	No.
Boys ...	1676	...	...	3	...	...	...
Girls ...	1575	2	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	3251	2	0·06	4	0·12	...	...

(w) DEFORMITIES.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.					SPECIAL CASES.	
	No. Exam- ined.	Con- genital.		Ac- quired.		Con- genital.	Ac- quired.
		No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	No.
Boys ...	1676	1	...	2	...	...	1
Girls ...	1575	2	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	3251	3	0·09	4	0·12	...	1

(a) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLES I. AND II. (Combined).

Area No.	Aver. No. on Roll during year.	Total No. of Cases.	No. of Cases per 100 of School Population.	Areas in order of prevalence (lowest first).	No. of Cases of							No. of Children in contact with cases of							Total No. of Con-tacts.
					Chicken Pox.	Diphtheria.	(German Measles.	Measles.	Mumps.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox.	Diphtheria.	(German Measles.	Measles.	Mumps.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	
1	1395	65	4.6	5	47	2	...	5	...	3	8	1	11	...	1	...	7	...	20
2	2964	129	4.3	4	48	50	2	2	2	13	12	12	91	1	...	...	20	8	132
3	1455	247	10.1	7	44	13	...	23	101	30	36	4	23	...	4	1	32	2	66
4	2501	118	4.7	6	40	8	...	45	...	16	9	3	5	...	3	...	13	4	28
5	2403	87	3.6	3	31	10	...	2	3	14	27	34	12	...	1	...	15	7	69
6	3630	89	2.4	2	68	3	1	...	2	13	2	1	5	1	...	...	20	1	28
7	2222	42	1.8	1	16	13	...	...	3	9	1	...	6	...	...	...	3	...	9
Totals ...	16570	777	4.6	...	294	99	3	77	111	98	95	55	153	2	9	1	116	22	352

TABLE III.

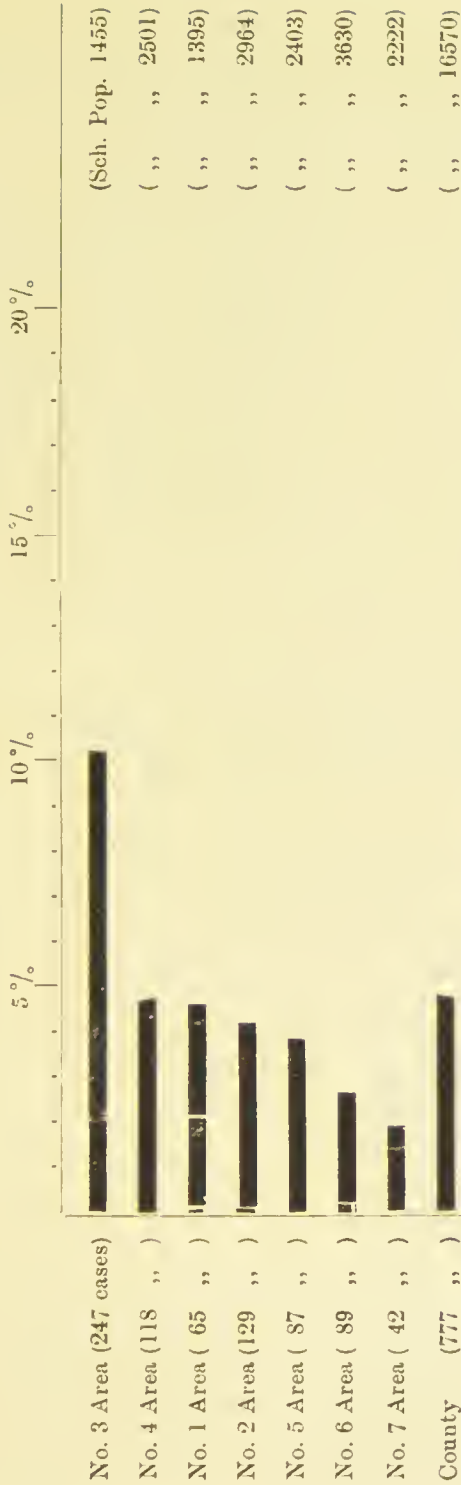


Table III. shows in graphic form the percentage incidence of Infectious Diseases in relation to school population in the various School Management Committee Areas as a whole.

TABLE IV.

Table IV. shows in graphic form the actual number of cases of the different infectious diseases over the county as a whole. The most prevalent disease was Chicken Pox (294 cases), and most of the cases occurred in areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Mumps came second with 111 cases. In close order followed Diphtheria (99 cases), Scarlet Fever (98 cases), Whooping Cough (95 cases), and Measles (77 cases). German Measles (3 cases) was almost non-existent. On the whole, the number of cases of infectious disease shows a remarkable decrease this year.

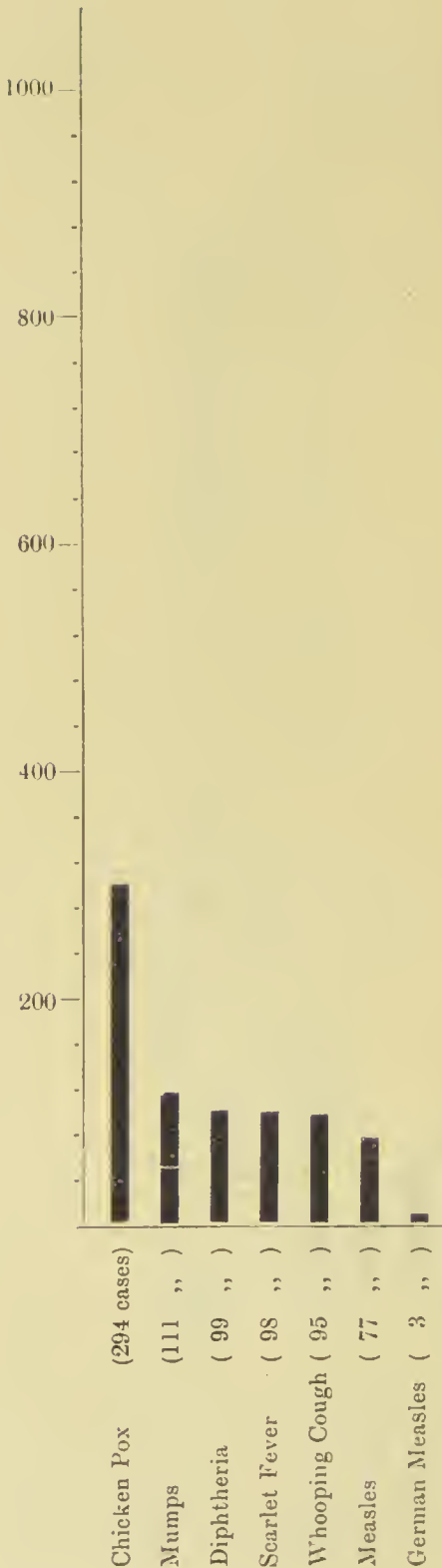


TABLE V.

Year.	School Management Committee Areas.						
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
1920-21	1	4	5	2	6	3	7
1921-22	6	7	2	4	1	3	5
1922-23	4	6	5	7	3	2	1
1923-24	6	7	3	2	5	4	1
1924-25	1	6	7	2	5	4	3
1925-26	5	7	2	4	6	1	3
1926-27	6	4	1	2	3	5	7
1927-28	5	6	2	1	4	3	7
1928-29	5	4	7	6	3	2	1

The above table shows the order of the areas with regard to the prevalence of infectious disease during the past nine years (lowest first).

(y) OTHER DISEASES OR DEFECTS.

	SYSTEMATIC CASES.			SPECIAL CASES.
	No. Examined.	Number of Diseases or Defects.	%	Number of Diseases or Defects.
Boys ...	1676	22	...	11
Girls ...	1575	31	...	9
Totals ...	3251	53	1.63	20

8.—SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR CLASSES (INCLUDING OPEN AIR SCHOOLS).

The special classes for mentally defective and dull children established at Armadale and South Queensferry Public and Broxburn High Schools continued in operation during the year. The following table shows various details in regard to these classes :—

	Armadale P.S.	Broxburn H.S.	So. Queens- ferry P.S.
No. of Children on Roll as at 4/9/28	25	16	16
Do. do. as at 11/7/29	24	16	14
Number of M.D. children	14	16	14*
Number of very dull children	10	...	...
Attendance—%	75·91	84·7	84·4
Range of I.Q.	50 to 84	50 to 76	34 to 78
Range of ages (actual)	8 to 14	9 to 16	9 to 14
No. leaving class during year	5	6	2
No. admitted to class during year...	4	6	...

* One of these cases is still under observation—the diagnosis as to educability or otherwise being unsettled.

9.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE OF THE CHILDREN.

(a) PHYSICAL EXERCISES.—Up to the close of the year, the Staff engaged in the scheme of physical education was composed of the following :—

- (1) One whole-time instructor recognised under Chapter VI., and entirely engaged in teaching.
- (2) Six whole-time instructresses, all of whom are recognised under Chapter VI.

(b) BATHS.—See report for year ending 31st July, 1921.

(c) PERSONAL HYGIENE.—See report for year ending 31st July, 1925.

The Medical Officer gave two lectures on “The Hygiene of the School Child,” to the Teachers on the Authority’s staff. These were very well attended.

10.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

The following tabular statement is compiled from information supplied by the Supervisor of Domestic Economy :—

DETAILS OF FEEDING CENTRES.

Centre.	Average No. on Roll.	No. of Days in Operation.	No. of Meals Supplied.
Bathgate Academy	46	37	1718
Blackness P.S.	36	77	2753
Fauldhouse P.S.	41	84	3420
Grange P.S.	26	50	1619
South Queensferry P.S.	41	67	2784
Whitburn P.S.	58	59	3392
Winchburgh P.S.	36	65	2349
Totals	278	439	18,035

Feeding centres were also in operation for a period at Linlithgow Academy and Linlithgow R.C. P.S., but the complete figures for these two centres are not available.

11.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

(a) MINOR AILMENTS: 1, 2, 3, AND 5.—The clinics established in the County (16 in number), continued in active operation during the year. The numerical details of the work carried on therein are given in the following table :—

	Ears.	Nose, &c.	Eyes.	Skin.		General	Totals.
				Head.	Body.		
No. of Cases ...	505	57	600	801	245	4640	6848
No. of Attendances	11123	3557	10497	8993	2716	40531	77417

The average numbers of attendances per child treated was 11.30. The numbers of cases and attendances are greater than the corresponding numbers in the preceding year.

(4) RINGWORM AND FAVUS.—See Report for year ending 31st July, 1921, page 36.

(5) OTHER DISEASES.—See Report for year ending 31st July, 1921, page 36.

(b) DEFECTIVE VISION.—Dr. E. M. Lithgow, Oculist to the Authority, reports as follows on the work done by him during the year:—

During the session under review, 144 children with defective vision were examined by me (67 boys and 77 girls). In all but 8 cases, spectacles were found to be necessary and were prescribed. In cases in which no appreciable benefit was likely to be obtained by their use, the indications for the necessary treatment were given.

The following tabular statement gives an analysis of the cases examined:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Hypermetropia	17	20	37
Hypermetropic Astigmatism ...	23	27	50
Myopia	12	10	22
Myopic Astigmatism	4	7	11
Mixed Astigmatism	6	18	24
Internal Strabismus	25	8	33
External Strabismus	1	1	2
Amblyopia (one eye)	11	11	22
Corneal Nebulae	5	5	10
Blepharitis	1	—	1
Conjunctivitis	—	1	1
Congenital Nystagmus	3	—	3
Keratitis	1	—	1
Totals	109	108	217

In addition, cases of Optic Atrophy, Iritis, Choroiditis, and Coloboma of Choroid were also met with. Glasses were found to be necessary and were prescribed in nearly all the cases examined.

(Signed) E. M. LITHGOW, M.B., F.R.C.S., (Edin.)

Spectacles were prescribed for 4 pupils at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and for 1 pupil at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and were procured for them through the Authority's scheme. The total number of children supplied with spectacles was 141.

(c) DEFECTIVE TEETH.—The School Dentist has submitted the following report regarding the work carried out in her department during the year :—

Number of Schools visited	...	...	...	35
Number of children examined	...	..	...	7036
Percentage with sound teeth	...	...	...	24
Percentage with 1—4 teeth decayed	...	...	...	55
Percentage with more than 4 teeth decayed	...	...	...	21
Percentage requiring treatment	..	...	...	76 (5347)
Percentage accepting treatment	..	...	...	74 (3947)
Number of children treated	...	...	...	3026
Number of extractions—Temporary	...	...	6013	
Permanent	...	...	532	
Total	...	—	6545	
Number of fillings—Temporary	...	...	12	
Permanent	...	...	1201	
Total	...	—	1213	
Number of Scalings and Dressings	...	...	522	
Number of special cases treated not included above	...	...	220	

From 4th September to March 28th, children from 6 to 12 years inclusive were examined and treated. It was found that if this group was adhered to, arrears would mount up so that the arrangement of one area per term would be impossible. From April till July the age group, 6 years to 9 years, was therefore examined and treated.

(d) OPERATIONS:—These continue to be arranged for by the parents of the children requiring them, either with the family doctor or, through him, with one or other of the large hospitals. The following table shows the number and nature of the operations performed after notices received from this office :—

Tonsils.		Tonsils and Adenoids.		Other Conditions.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
36	45	5	4	2	3

(c) DEFORMITIES:—Any operative or remedial treatment for deformities is usually carried out under the terms of the preceding paragraph. One case of Infantile Paralysis received massage and muscle re-education treatment from one of the school nurses and one of the physical education instruetresses.

12.—STUDENTS IN PRELIMINARY TRAINING.

During the year, 13 candidates (girls) were examined. With one exception, all were found to be strong and healthy. The exception had no actual organic disease, but she was excessively thin. She was kept under observation for a period and then approved.

The following table gives the location of the Students in the four secondary schools :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Bathgate Academy	10
Bo'ness Academy
Broxburn High School	3
Linlithgow Academy
Totals	13

For various reasons, 22 examinations were made in the Education Office, mostly of young and delicate children who had just attained school age and regarding whose fitness to enrol there existed reasonable doubt.

John Hunter.
Medical Officer.

